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CIA Lobbying Attacked

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WASHINGTON — Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., red-faced and furious about backstage lobbying by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), denounced the CIA yesterday for wanting to "stand above the law."

"They want the unmitigated right to kick federal employees around (and) deny them . . . the basic rights which belong to every American," declared the angry North Carolina Democrat.

ERVIN'S remarks on the Senate floor amounted to one of the sharpest and bitterest congressional attacks on the

super-secret intelligence agency since its formation in 1947.

The denunciation may be widely felt, because Ervin is a conservative and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over the CIA.

His comments came shortly after the Senate leadership, at the insistent request of CIA officials, abruptly scratched from yesterday's Senate agenda an Ervin-sponsored bill to safeguard the rights of federal employees.

AMONG OTHER things, the bill prohibits the CIA and the equally secret National Secu-

rity Agency from asking employees or job applicants about their sex habits, family relations or religious beliefs as part of lie-detector or psychiatric tests.

The only exception is for situations where the directors of the CIA or the NSA determine that such questioning is vital to protect national security.

Ervin, in his Senate speech shortly afterwards, read a federal law forbidding agencies of the executive branch to attempt to influence the passage or defeat of legislation before Congress.